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# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3405

December 19, 2003

Richard Anderson  
Chief Executive Officer  
Northwest Airlines, Inc.  
5101 Northwest Drive  
St. Paul, MN 55111-3934

Dear Mr. Anderson:

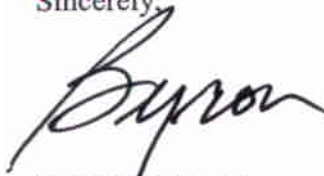
I am writing today because of my deep concern about the possible failure of the collective bargaining process to arrive at a labor contract between Mesaba and the Air Line Pilots Association, MEC. Enclosed is a letter I have sent to Mesaba and the pilots union.

I do not want to take sides or involve myself in the negotiations between Mesaba and its pilots. But, knowing that to the extent that Mesaba flies in North Dakota, it does so on behalf of Northwest Airlines, my hope is that if there is a service shut-down that your company would step in to maintain service.

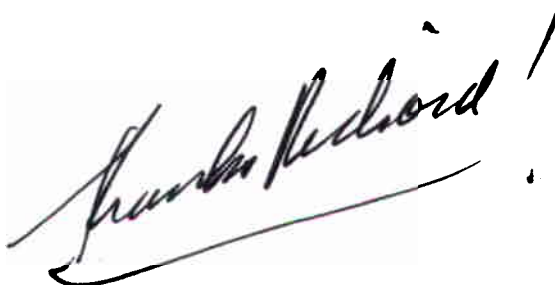
We have a mutual interest in maintaining air service in North Dakota. As the dominant carrier in the State our traveling public depends on the service Northwest provides, and your company certainly benefits from North Dakotans traveling on your world-wide network.

The best outcome in the Mesaba matter would be for a settlement to be reached so that a service shut-down could be avoided. However, if there is a shut-down in service by Mesaba, I would hope that Northwest Airlines would fill the service gap for the duration.

Sincerely,



Byron L. Dorgan  
U.S. Senator



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